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1 July 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services,  
1 July 1965, 8 a. m.

1. The Director, accompanied by Mr. Houston, briefed the CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services on 1 July 1965. All members of the Subcommittee except Mr. Alvin E. O'Konski were present for all or most of the briefing.

2. The Director started the briefing with South Vietnam, giving the latest reports as of the morning of 1 July on the attack on Da Nang and other fighting in the area. The Director then continued with the text on South Vietnam, going next to North Vietnam and then following the text of the prepared briefing on other situations. In connection with North Vietnam, the Chairman and several members were particularly interested in the readiness of the SAM sites, as the Director pointed out that those which were most fully equipped could be operational in about seven days if the missiles were available. He also pointed out that while there were some Russian technicians, the Russians claimed that the North Vietnamese had the capability to learn and operate the SAM operation. Mr. Blandford asked if there were any truth in the newspaper report that there were 50 MIG 19s and 21s in North Vietnam. The Director pointed out that the MIGs were the older 15s and 17s although we had done a study to see how they could be modified to be equipped with heat seeking or other guided missiles.

3. On the Dominican Republic, the Director used the latest situation report together with the regularly prepared text.

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4. On the section dealing with Soviet military developments, Mr. Arends asked if we had known about the AN-22 before the Paris air show, and the Director said we had been following it for several years and that it was a prototype--nothing particularly startling or new involved except size. Mr. Blandford asked if the Subcommittee had been briefed on it previously, and I stated that we had no record of such a briefing. Mr. Arends said this was his understanding as he had no recollection of having heard of the AN-22 previously.

5. In connection with the briefing on Algeria, Mr. Philbin asked what sort of person Boumedienne was. The Director said he was an ardent nationalist and a Moslem, which made him anti-communist.

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7. The Chairman asked what information we had on the United States' ability to maintain Wheelus Air Base in Libya. The Director said he was not too familiar with the situation but would make a report to the Subcommittee on this (DDI has been notified and is preparing a paper for submission to the Chairman).

8. The Director mentioned that he had an additional item in connection with North Vietnam which was a resurgence of naval activity there. He pointed out our naval shelling of their bases had done considerable injury but they were now repairing and putting their motor torpedo boats back in commission and some were moving south. Mr. Philbin asked what type of boats these were, and the Director said they were similar to our PTs. He pointed out there were a variety of ways in which they could be a distinct threat to our naval vessels in the area and that we had given special notification to the Department of Defense to warn it of the possibility.

9. Mr. Hardy asked what our estimate was of the relative stability of the new South Vietnamese government. The Director pointed out that both the Catholics and the Buddhists have stated

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that they have reservations about the new group but are willing to stand aside and give them an opportunity. Mr. Hardy asked if this were a complete turnover or were there any carryovers, and the Director said there was considerable carryover of civilian officials. In answer to the question whether there were any carryovers from the old Diem regime, the Director said that these had all been pretty well eliminated.

10. At the end of the briefing the Chairman said he proposed to have the Subcommittee make a report to the House on the Subcommittee's oversight of CIA, citing the number of meetings and the Director's insistence on informing the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee members agreed, provided no information was given on what the Agency supplied it so that the report would go only to the point that the Subcommittee considered itself well informed. Mr. Hardy said it should make clear that there were not only briefings on intelligence information but it was also informed on the Agency and its operations. He said that while they should be even better informed on the Agency this was a problem of the Subcommittee having enough time to give to the subject. The Chairman asked that we work out such a report with Mr. Blandford.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

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Briefing Paper

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